

It's Capitalism



written by Mark Maxey

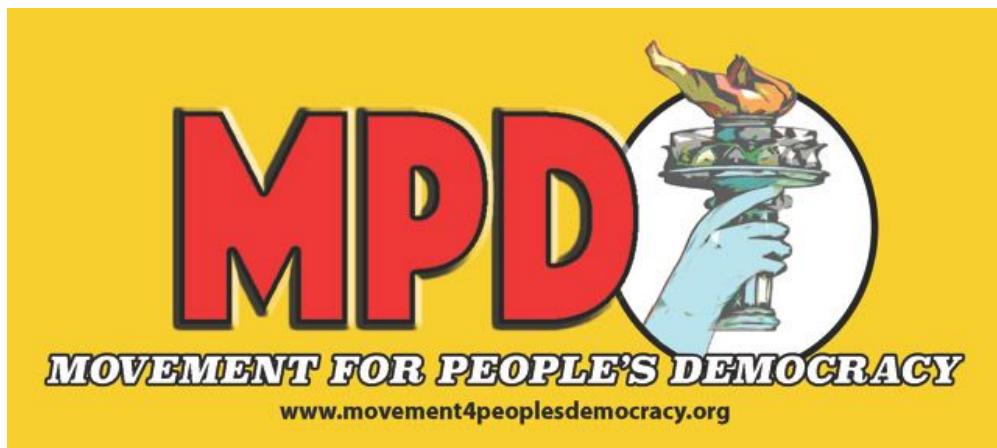
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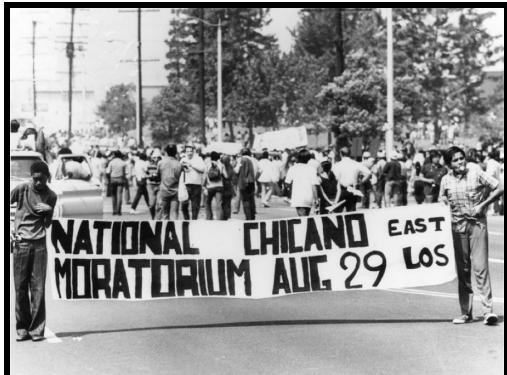
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It's Capitalism

"If everyone who identifies as a leftist, were to receive a call today that the revolution started tomorrow, 9 am, no one would know what to do," Mark Maxey, National Coordinator for Movement 4 People's Democracy said. "The left is fractionated, too broad with no clear plan."

The answer lies with Crushing Capitalism, Maxey reflected. The root cause of 100% of our global issues is a direct path to capitalism.

"War, lack of world peace, wage disparity, union busting, denying human rights, environmental ills, class dividing are all products of capitalism.



"In the 1970s as a 13-year-old middle school student, in California, at that time the Chicano Moratorium¹ was happening, Joseph Hancock, Director of Labor Today² said. "The Moratorium³, also progressed by our teachers and students rallying⁴ against the Vietnam War." The protests were to bring to awareness that military recruiting/drafting was affecting more persons of color than the whites."



Socialist Review article by Sally Campbell⁵ looks directly into this issue. In the article, it states,

¹ http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/pages/1054/files/latinosmpdf_illustrated.pdf

² <http://www.labortoday.us/>

³ https://localwiki.org/oakland/History_of_Mexican_and_Latino_Americans

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zoot_Suit_Riots

⁵ <http://socialistreview.org.uk/394/why-does-capitalism-lead-war>

“The century since the slaughter in the First World War has been littered with endless more bloody wars. Sally Campbell argues the drive to war is not accidental but inherent in the logic of capitalism.” Sally goes on to say, “This minority of the capitalist class, according to Kautsky [Karl Kautsky, a leading member of the German Social Democratic Party (SPD)], had managed to convince the majority of industrial capitalists that they could only defend their interests in the colonies – raw materials and labour – through war and empire-building. In fact, said Kautsky, the capitalists of different nations could agree peacefully to divide up the world and exploit it.”

The only men who benefit⁶ from wars are those with a political agenda.



Divide and Conquer, or the American form, Colonization, is a tool to divide the classes as well as wedge a potential threat of extinction within the races.

⁶ <https://www.capitalism.org/category/war/>

Journalist, and National Coordinator for MPD, Mark Maxey, wrote⁷ on this very subject late fall of 2018. “Early reformers used their religious beliefs to justify their Manifest Destiny perspective. It overflowed into Congress, which passed Manifest Destiny-themed bills. Indigenous people, meanwhile, were on the receiving end of this religious zealotry. Rape, abuse, kidnap, murder, and genocide were the end results for them. The recent quoting of Biblical scripture by Attorney General Jeff Sessions⁸ to justify the stealing of immigrant children from their parents shows that this ideology is still very much alive among at least some sectors of the U.S. government.”

As the long-time U.S. Indian Service teacher and agent Albert H. Kneale noted in his 1950 autobiography Indian Agent, the U.S. Government “went on the assumption that any Indian custom was, per se, objectionable, whereas the customs of whites were the ways of civilization.”

Capitalism is still playing into the mythology of white Manifest Destiny, which goes back to the earliest colonial settlements. Trump’s policies are aimed at stoking the racist anger and resentment of his mass base, but they reflect the interests of the same oligarchy that Sen. Bernie Sanders assailed in his bid for the presidency. In every way, the current administration’s policies show favoritism to those at the top and seek any way possible to divide those outside the ranks of the super-wealthy.

Trump and his team’s “law and order” framework is the same one articulated by President Richard Nixon in the late 1960s and more subtly invoked by Presidents Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton as they ramped up the drug war and fueled massive prison expansions during their times in office. We jail and separate families at the border to deter illegal immigration just as we jail and separate poor families within our country because they can’t afford bail or proper legal representation.

It is through the inequalities of power and wealth, capitalism⁹

⁷ <https://goo.gl/tqkWTU>

⁸ <https://goo.gl/TLChgC>

⁹ <https://goo.gl/NqE21u>

nurtures economic inequality alongside equality under the law.

TruthOut¹⁰, published a similar story in 2018¹¹. Richard Wolff stated Economic Update: Capitalism Breeds Inequality, in his article. The audio article stated, This week's episode discusses how globalization has worsened inequality and injustice, how Quebec's doctors are rejecting pay increases, the significance of the YMCA workers' strike in Chicago, and the growing Japanese co-op movement.

Paul Farrell's 2015 article¹² for Market Watch, said, Capitalism is killing America's morals, our future. In 2013 Six theses¹³ were written on the same subject of how capitalism quashes human rights.

In a 1999 class presentation¹⁴, from a Sociology class at the University of Regina, a class division is one of the exponents of capitalism. For Marx, the analysis of social class, class structures and changes in those structures are key to understanding capitalism and other social systems or modes of production. In the Communist Manifesto Marx and Engels comment that the history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles.

Tithi Bhattacharya and Lance Selfa reported in International Socialist Review¹⁵. They stated, "This conversation about race, class, and capitalism obviously needs to develop more broadly..."

So capitalism seems to be the ONE item that the left can rally around to crush to bring about a more socialist world. Crushing capitalism is the ROUTE for any true revolution for the left.

If the left, rallied around crushing capitalism, then most of our

¹⁰ <https://truthout.org/>

¹¹ <https://goo.gl/wF2w3Y>

¹² <https://goo.gl/JEPvQp>

¹³ <https://goo.gl/8GB14Q>

¹⁴ <http://uregina.ca/~gingrich/s28f99.htm>

¹⁵ <https://isreview.org/issue/98/race-class-and-capitalism>

societal problems would disappear completely. Start the new year, 2019 by crushing capitalism, then the left is truly leading the RIGHT revolution.



It's Capitalism - Part 2

Michael Roberts reports¹⁶, the top 1% own 48% of all global personal wealth; 10% own 85%. He goes on to say, “This year’s report showed some interesting variations. In the report, personal wealth is measured by the value of the property and financial assets after deducting any debt held by adults. During the 12 months to mid-2018, aggregate global wealth rose by \$14 trillion to \$317 trillion, representing a growth rate of 4.6%. This was sufficient to outpace population growth, so that wealth per adult grew by 3.2%, raising the global mean average wealth to \$63,100 per adult, a record high (but remember this in nominal dollar terms, before inflation).”

Now, honestly, do you as an adult have \$63,100 at your hands to spend right now? Probably like many working class citizen, you do not. This is wealth inequality. At the hands of the capitalists.

What does the term capitalist mean? In the past, it was synonymous with Industrial Owner, Elitist, Robber Barons¹⁷. A definition of Robber Baron is a person who has become rich through ruthless and unscrupulous business practices. Remember the term in the 1920’s Shantytowns or Company towns¹⁸.

One must watch the CORPORATION¹⁹ video to fully understand the negative impact corporations have on individual working class folks. You can listen also to the False Flag podcast²⁰ on the same subject. Some research notes with links can be found here²¹ also.

Some may ask what a capitalist is. It is a wealthy person who uses the money to invest in trade and industry for profit in accordance with the

¹⁶ <https://goo.gl/Wm4Buw>

¹⁷ <https://goo.gl/Qunolh>

¹⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Company_town

¹⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHrhqtY2khc>

²⁰ <https://goo.gl/9SR9pB>

²¹ <https://goo.gl/yo1AD>

principles of capitalism. True capitalism needs a competitive market. Without competition, monopolies exist, and instead of the market setting the prices, the seller is the price setter, which is against the conditions of capitalism.

Sounds good huh? But consider the report by Michael Roberts. If the top 1% own 48% of all global personal wealth; 10% own 85%, then obviously the “free” competitive market is held by either the top 1% or the top 10%. Not the working class.

Who are the working class you may ask. The working class (or labouring class) comprises the people employed for wages, especially in manual-labour occupations and industrial work. So the owners only desire profit. They do not even consider the risk to the environment for their profit. They easily move American Union held jobs overseas where the pay is much cheaper. And the “working class” especially the Union workers, are left with no jobs. The company owner does not care.

The wealth inequality gap has grown so much wider in the past forty years. CNN²² in 2017 reported, “while wages for low- and middle-income workers have begun to recover, wealth inequality has still climbed to new heights, according to a new survey from the Federal Reserve which conducts a checkup of the nation's finances every three years.”

The income inequality gap is higher now in our society than any other generation in history. Jaffe says, “Of course, as Rebecca Burns²³ writes, “it's much easier to predict the future when you have the power and money to shape it.”” As long as this gap is huge, the worker remains in slavery with their CEO. Michael J. Moore in the Winter 2016 NEW POLITICS magazine speaks of this. “Of course, economic inequality raises concern among liberals, social democrats, and socialists alike. For all see in it an ethical problem, one of unfairness, of greed, of unequal control and power. But the new explosion of wealth inequality is much larger in scale than in the previous Gilded Age. It poses different questions with respect

²² <https://goo.gl/RTVfgX>

²³ <https://goo.gl/Uw9sjD>

to the transformation of capitalism and the classical models and assumptions within which left politics typically operate.”

Economic inequality leads to broader, more general forms of power and control. Despite the dynamic nature of capitalism, the persistence of oligarchy and elite control should still be seen as the central, salient feature of modern society. To successfully fight this oligarchy is to move more LEFT, such as Democratic Socialism. As well common workers have an ally with one of the original workers union in America. The International Workers of the World, IWW (www.iww.org) can assist in organizing, As well grassroots organizations, Our Revolution (Sen. Bernie Sanders spin off group) Our Democracy, The Young Turks, Black Lives Matter, and MPD (www.movement4peoplesdemocracy.org) are all groups which can help amass and organize with breaking up these oligarchies, The early muckrakers left a formidable change for investigative journalists,

The model for current work places has changed from my own understanding as I learned in the mid to late 1970's. The whole workplace model has evolved with a concise plan that has taken over 40 years to implement. Many younger so-called knowledge workers no longer toil nine to five in a regular office but spend days and nights in front of their laptops at home or in co-working spaces. Part of the economics of the business model began to change in the 1970's with the work done by Milton Freidman²⁴. Milton was the new father of a new economic model in the 60's through the 80's which in turn set in motion a drastic change that totally tilted workers rights²⁵. You can read more on Milton here²⁶.

The America I knew, back in the late sixties and early seventies is not the America of today. “The change took place in the 1970s. There are a lot of reasons for it,” Noam Chomsky says. “One of the underlying factors, discussed mainly by economic historian Robert Brenner, was the falling rate of profit in manufacturing. There were other factors. It led to

²⁴ <https://goo.gl/k1t7Qf>

²⁵ <http://www.slobodaiprospertonit.tv/en/node/1202>

²⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milton_Friedman

major changes in the economy – a reversal of several hundred years of progress towards industrialization and development that turned into a process of de-industrialization and de-development. Of course, manufacturing production continued overseas very profitably, but it's no good for the workforce²⁷.”

Many of my peers nowhere come close to where their parents were financially at the same age. The economy has depleted their savings, no retirement funds. No vacation or weekend getaway property. Today's Generation X and the Millennials are faced with a stark reality of being broke. It was in the 1970's when Milton Friedman's economic plan was put into place by the extreme fascist right-wing. This is the context I use fascism. Benito Mussolini consolidated control over the Fascist movement in 1919 with the founding of the Fasci italiani di combattimento, whose opposition to socialism he declared: We declare war against socialism, not because it is socialism, but because it has opposed nationalism²⁸.” Fascism further means a governmental system led by a dictator having complete power, forcibly suppressing opposition and criticism, regimenting all industry, commerce, etc., and emphasizing an aggressive nationalism and often racism. Does this sound familiar? “But Friedman was more than an academic. He was an advocate for, and popularizer of, a radical right-wing economic ideology,” Bernie Sander said²⁹. “With all due respect to the late Milton Friedman, his economic program is nothing more than a wish list for the greediest, the most monied interests in our society. At the same time that this ideology is supported by the rich and powerful-except when they're lining up in Washington for their welfare checks-this same ideology is almost unanimously opposed to working families and middle-class people across this country.”

The Republican right wing establishment has been dismantling our American dream. This has been going on for over forty years. Cold calculated robbing the working class of any opportunities. All the while lining their pockets from their corporate sponsors. Representing the corporations, capitalists, and not the citizens, the workers. Neither parties

²⁷ <https://goo.gl/ezba2T>

²⁸ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fascism>

²⁹ http://inthesetimes.com/article/4193/the_failed_prophet

are the answer. It will have to be something new.

The lyrics³⁰ from Jimmy Lafave poignantly says it best, a Worn Out American Dream. The changes to corporate America has caused this nightmare. Union busting tactics is another nightmare. The conglomeration of big business has caused it too³¹. Toss in offshore accounts and overseas industrialization is a culprit too. Loss of jobs, reduced pay and diminishing benefits has decimated the working class. When the top Ten companies represent the retail market³², I can tell you the workers don't share in the profits.

Michael Yates, in Monthly Review said, "Wages have changed considerably along with the cost of living in the past forty years. Others are not so fortunate. In 2010, more than 7 million people had incomes less than 50 percent of the official poverty level of income, an amount equal to \$11,245, which in hourly terms (2,000 hours of work per year) is \$5.62. About one-quarter of all jobs in the United States pay an hourly wage rate that would not support a family of four at the official poverty level of income³³."

Michael D. Yates wrote³⁴ for Monthly Review: It is by now well known that significant and growing economic inequality is a central feature of the U.S. economy, as previous articles in Monthly Review have shown³⁵. However, the same is also the case for much of the rest of the world. Inequality arises in other countries for reasons similar to those in the United States, but each nation has its own history, along with widely divergent economic and political structures.

³⁰ <https://goo.gl/6n4oTU>

³¹ <http://fortune.com/global500/list/>

³² <https://goo.gl/cD6aoB>

³³ <https://monthlyreview.org/2012/03/01/the-great-inequality/>

³⁴ <https://goo.gl/quRwAZ>

³⁵ <https://goo.gl/o6Rm5b>

It's Capitalism - Part 3

In contrast, it is easy to see corporatists have increased since 1980's. A sharp downward spiral almost to a death rattle has the working class become. These graphs and charts should be utterly shocking to you. It doesn't get more insightful than this. Simply the greedy corporatists have been getting greedier for the past forty-seven years. Behind it, all are mostly Republicans. Yet this issue goes well beyond the issue of political parties. The workplace model has shifted and reflects a CEO as being narcissistic. Instead of recognizing the needs of the workers they focus on the bottom line to increase their profits. With no moral compass. It's all about profits with no understanding of the depletion of natural resources.

"The economic boom of the 1990s created huge wealth for the bosses but benefited workers hardly at all. At the same time, the bosses were able to take the political initiative and even the moral high ground, while workers were often divided against each other," Michael Yates of Monthly Review states. One should "name the system³⁶" - "and that system establishes that the working-class does not aid in the wealth they produce. The growing inequality both globally and in the United States is the direct correlation to capitalism." Capitalism, unwatched, will always yield such an outcome. Yates goes on to illustrate, "(the)necessary consequence of capitalism, and not an unfortunate side-effect that can be remedied by technical measures. To defend working people against ongoing attacks—on their working conditions, their living standards, and their future and that of their children—and to challenge inequality, it is necessary to understand capitalism as a system and for labor to challenge the political dominance of capitalist interests."

Chuck Collins³⁷, in Yes magazine, reported that across the country, local jurisdictions aren't waiting for federal action or corporate governance reforms to close the wage gap. In December, for example, the city of Portland, Oregon, passed an ordinance to raise the business tax on

³⁶ https://monthlyreview.org/product/naming_the_system/

³⁷ <https://goo.gl/DAzZMk>

companies with CEOs who earn more than 100 times the median pay of their workers. Portland officials said the ordinance is the first of its kind in the country. And now, more cities and states are poised to follow suit.

“The huge divide in income and wealth has real-world implications,” Steve Novick³⁸ wrote last October in Inequality.org. Novick sponsored the ordinance when he was on the Portland City Council. “Too many Americans cannot get a leg up,” he wrote. “Income inequality undermines the American dream.”

In These Times magazine in 2015 ran an article³⁹ on Five Ways To Reduce Inequality. Quite simply we, the working-class, must hold corporations responsible. Amy Domini and Sofia Faruqi reported⁴⁰, “Not so long ago, business leaders believed that corporations should serve⁴¹ not only shareholders but also employees and the community. This mission narrowed in the 1990s to a single-minded focus⁴² on shareholder return. A white paper by James Montier explains how the simplified purpose has created vast income inequality. Average CEO compensation has soared to 300 times higher⁴³ than worker pay, and companies have become quick to increase profit by downsizing.”

In the early days of our republic, corporations were incorporated with an expiration date. They also had to serve the public good. The local community and state also restricted a number of local resources the corporations could use. It was a socially responsible model. It is a model we should get back to in order to turn around this wage inequality. It also places the local resources into the hands of the local working-class.

Wallace Hopp⁴⁴ in May 2017 said in, In These Times: “Let us consider two

³⁸ <http://inequality.org/city-cutting-edge-ceo-pay-reform/>

³⁹ <https://goo.gl/typ8KF>

⁴⁰ <http://inthesetimes.com/community/profile/322226>

⁴¹ http://www.salon.com/2012/04/04/the_shareholder_fallacy/

⁴² <http://www.cg.org.cn/theory/zlyz/roundtable.pdf>

⁴³ <http://www.epi.org/publication/ceo-pay-continues-to-rise/>

⁴⁴ <https://goo.gl/B8yReq>

important ways income inequality undermines the economy: (1) by diminishing worker motivation and (2) by reducing the velocity of money.

The demoting impact of income inequality occurs when workers see the gains of productivity going almost entirely to executives. Since 1973, productivity has increased⁴⁵ by over 73 percent, while (inflation-adjusted) hourly worker pay has risen by only about 11 percent and CEO compensation has soared⁴⁶ by 1,000 percent.”

Who can blame people for being reluctant to work harder when they know the proceeds will go to someone else? Extensive behavioral research⁴⁷ has shown that people will forego personal gain to prevent outcomes they perceive as unfair. In work settings, this leads to demotivated workers working below their potential, even when it leads to smaller raises or bonuses. The result is reduced productivity, lower quality, and less creativity, all of which undermine corporate profit and economic growth.

Another way⁴⁸ inequality affects the economy is by reducing the velocity of money by shifting cash⁴⁹ to people who spend it more slowly. Working-class people who are stretching to make ends meet spend their income quickly—usually pretty much all of it— while wealthy people whose resources exceed their immediate needs tend to save substantial portions⁵⁰ of their income.

Consequently, whenever a company takes a dollar out of the hands of a worker and puts it into the hands of an executive or investor, the number of times that dollar will be spent in the economy is reduced. The result is less business for capitalists and less employment for workers.

These two observations imply that policies that decrease income inequality also bolster⁵¹ the economy. Since this benefits both rich and poor, such

⁴⁵ <http://www.epi.org/productivity-pay-gap/>

⁴⁶ <https://goo.gl/TobZ4F>

⁴⁷ <https://goo.gl/r8nno5>

⁴⁸ <https://goo.gl/qLvVYi>

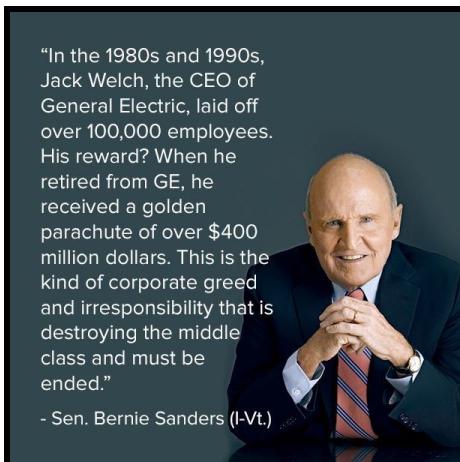
⁴⁹ <https://goo.gl/yEXTvN>

⁵⁰ <https://goo.gl/aWTVkN>

⁵¹ <https://goo.gl/nka2ZG>

policies offer opportunities for the rich, and the businesses they control, to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem of income inequality.

Bill Moyers⁵² even agrees that wage inequality threatens our core democracy. During the Great Recession, between 2007 and 2009, the unemployment rate grew to its highest level in 25 years. With many Americans losing their jobs, the number of low-income families grew to 10 million in 2009, a quarter million increase from the previous year. The findings come as income inequality continues to grow, a grim reminder of how many working families are struggling to pay the bills with stagnant wages. Since the recession, more working-class families are in poverty than ever before⁵³.



"In the 1980s and 1990s, Jack Welch, the CEO of General Electric, laid off over 100,000 employees. His reward? When he retired from GE, he received a golden parachute of over \$400 million dollars. This is the kind of corporate greed and irresponsibility that is destroying the middle class and must be ended."

- Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.)

Want to make America great again?
Here's how you really do it:

1. Strengthen unions
2. Raise the minimum wage
3. Stop corporate welfare
4. Bring manufacturing jobs back home
5. Penalize companies that hide their profits overseas to escape tax liabilities
6. End "right-to-work" laws
7. Get big money out of politics

Making it easy to support good jobs

Labor 411

The graphic features a dark blue background with white text. On the left, there is a large, bold heading. Below it, a smaller heading introduces the list. The list itself is numbered 1 through 7 and uses bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom left, there is a small line of text. In the bottom right corner, there is a red rectangular logo with white text.

⁵² <https://goo.gl/jf3WYh>

⁵³ <https://goo.gl/XeHBD1>

I've Got To Know

Okemah, OK born folk singer, Woody Guthrie⁵⁴, wrote a beautifully penned song, *I've Got To Know*.⁵⁵ His granddaughter Sarah Lee Guthrie sings a haunting version of it!⁵⁶ Within the seventeen verses are words that reflect much truth today. Though written over seventy years ago, the words are still as fresh.

Why do your war boats ride on my waters?
Why do your death bombs fall from my skies?
Why do you burn my farm and my town down?
I've got to know, friend, I've got to know!
What makes your boats haul death to my people?
Nitro blockbusters, big cannons, and guns?
Why doesn't your ship bring food and some clothing?
I've sure got to know, folks, I've sure got to know!

Our industrial military complex is just as complacent and aligned with as the International Monetary Fund.⁵⁷ Money and the use of force is a tool for capitalism to keep persons and cultures oppressed. If you can for a second imagine this. Imagine if the money used to stage war were given to the working class, would it not aid in more peace? Yet if through media and propaganda the capitalists use keep blinders on the eyes of the oppressed. Makes you wonder, Why doesn't the warship bring food and clothing?

The CIA and NSA alone garnered \$52.6 billion⁵⁸ in funding in 2013 while the Department of Defense black ops budget for secret military

⁵⁴ <http://woodyguthrie.org/index.htm>

⁵⁵ http://woodyguthrie.org/Lyrics/Ive_Got_To_Know.htm

⁵⁶ <https://youtu.be/UftDEofGmqE?list=FLCZIM7zsOJLk0PiiKb3QS6Q>

⁵⁷

<http://theantimedia.org/us-military-uses-imf-and-world-bank-to-launder-85-of-its-black-budget/>

⁵⁸

<http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2015/02/02/black-budget-requests-remain-secret>

projects exceeds this number. It is estimated to be \$58.7 billion for the fiscal year 2015.

Jake Anderson⁵⁹ wrote:

However, of greater interest to some may be the clandestine nature and full scope of the black budget, which, according to analyst Catherine Austin Fitts, goes far beyond classified appropriations. Based on her research, some of which can be found in her piece "[What's Up With the Black Budget?](#)"⁶⁰ Fitts concludes that during the last decade, global financial elites have configured an elaborate system that makes most of the military budget un-auditable. This is because the real black budget includes money acquired by intelligence groups via narcotics trafficking, predatory lending, and various kinds of other financial fraud.

The result of this vast, geopolitically-sanctioned money laundering scheme is that [Housing and Urban Development and other agencies](#)⁶¹ are used for drug trafficking and securities fraud. [According to Fitts](#)⁶², the scheme allows for at least 85 percent of the U.S. federal budget to remain unaudited.

Fitts has been researching this issue since 2001 when she began to believe that a financial coup d'etat was underway. Specifically, she suspected that the banks, corporations, & investors acting in each global region were part of a "[global heist](#)"⁶³ , whereby capital was being sucked out of each country. She was right.

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<http://theantimedia.org/us-military-uses-imf-and-world-bank-to-launder-85-of-its-black-budget/>

⁶⁰ <https://solari.com/blog/whats-up-with-the-black-budget/>

⁶¹ <https://solari.com/blog/financial-coup-d%E2%80%99etat/>

⁶² <http://www.dunwalke.com/gideon/q301.pdf>

⁶³ <https://solari.com/blog/financial-coup-d%E2%80%99etat/>

This overtly gross money spending compounded by what other countries spend, it simply is robbing the poor. It's through taxes paid by the working class. Our government wastes the precious money from the poor which could be used for them instead. Again, our government is supposed to represent us not become a robber baron.

To be a good citizen one must keep vigilant on how much power it gives away to the government. Eisenhower's⁶⁴ fears about the military-industrial complex reflected his more general concern about militarism, or an overemphasis on military policy and spending, which he thought was costing the nation far too much money. In a remarkable and now famous statement made early in his presidency in April 1953, Eisenhower (1960) declared,

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the clouds of war, it is humanity hanging on a cross of iron.

A half-century after Eisenhower made this statement, U.S. military spending continues unabated. In 2009 it was \$767 billion (including \$92 billion for veterans' benefits) and accounted for almost 22% of all federal spending⁶⁵ but also for a much higher percentage of federal spending over which the government has any control. The federal budget includes both mandatory and discretionary spending. As the name implies, mandatory spending is required by various laws and includes such things as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, food stamps, and interest payments on the national debt; much of these mandatory expenses are funded by trust funds, such as Social Security taxes, which are raised and spent separately from income taxes. Discretionary spending involves the money the president and Congress must decide how to spend each year and includes

⁶⁴ <http://open.lib.umn.edu/sociology/chapter/13-5-the-military-industrial-complex/>

⁶⁵ U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). *Statistical abstract of the United States: 2010*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab>.

income tax dollars only. Military spending accounts for about 43% of discretionary spending.⁶⁶

The U.S. military budget is by far the highest in the world and dwarfs the military budgets for the nations ranking after the United States. In 2009, the U.S. military budget was \$661 billion. The nations ranking after the United States were China, \$100 billion; France, \$64 billion; the United Kingdom, \$58 billion; Russia, \$53 billion; Japan, \$51 billion; and Germany, \$46 billion. U.S. military spending accounted for 43% of the world's military spending in 2009.⁶⁷

Anonymous Patriots⁶⁸ wrote: "We are not only incensed that our elected officials are turning a blind eye to the transnational enemy within our country and around the world, we are disgusted with these warlords, both military and corporate, that send our sons and daughters to wars-for-profit to have their blood spilled for their own families' profits. As citizens of the world, we are filled with anger when we see men, women, and children slaughtered and displaced so that the few at the top can earn profits from blood and guns. We are sick and tired of wars *ad nauseam*, from our fathers who were killed in Viet Nam, our neighbors on 9-11, displaced war refugees around the world, not to mention the millions of starving children around the world who could use the money we spend on DARPA and their war tools for clean water, food, and education."

Within their article, it fully lays out who is behind the military industrial complex. The upper 10% is dictating the daily struggles of the other 90%. But my math shows that at anytime the 90% can and should rise up against the 10%. The decision is ours. In time I think more will wake up to this fact.

⁶⁶ Friends Committee on National Legislation. (2009). *How much of your 2008 income taxes pay for war?* Washington, DC: Friends Committee on National Legislation. Retrieved from

http://www fcnl org/issues/item php?item_id=3553&issue_id=19.

⁶⁷ Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. (2010). The 15 major spender countries in 2009. Retrieved from
http://www sipri org/research/armaments/milex/resultoutput/15majorspender_s.

⁶⁸ <http://stateofthenation2012 com/?p=34801>

War and chaos are tools of the capitalists/oppressors to rise up or rally the working-class. It is always a false flag in the media we should be aware of. Too often many get caught up in this game. The enemy is within our own country, the enemy is not mysteriously out there. Of course, the largest portion of America's budget is reserved for the military. What does that say about American values? What does that say about the American dream? It is OUR tax money, we should have a say in how it is spent.

Kaethe Kollwitz, German Expressionist, wrote: "*Every war already carries within it the war that will answer it. Every war is answered by a new war, until everything is smashed. That is why I am so wholeheartedly for a radical end to this madness and why my only hope is in world socialism.*" She wrote that on 21 February 1944, a year before she died.

Someday I envision those working class awoke folks will show up in Washington for a budget committee hearing. Imagine 100,000 citizens showing up to observe and let the legislators know we are watching. How soon do you think a change would happen? I've got to know!

Dismantling the Workplace

Within the past few years, much talk has happened regarding the use of robotics in the workplace while displacing the human worker. Sarah Jaffe, author, and journalist said it best in the latest Dissent magazine Winter 2017 article, "As we stare down the barrel of a Donald Trump presidency, the future looks grim for labor. Our new president is a racist billionaire, with decades of experience in the art of screwing workers...We've read hundreds of these stories. We know how they go. But the thing they all seem to gloss over is the question at the heart of this section: the question of politics."⁶⁹ This is true, but the politics for me is the grassroots social justice persons amassing quickly under the Trump administration. I think this show will expose how reviewing history and uncovering the core truth of the matter. It is when the workers and grassroots activist stand up together only then will viable change happen.

The model for current work places has changed from my own understanding as I learned in the mid to late 1970's. The whole workplace model has evolved with a concise plan that has taken over 40 years to implement. Many younger so-called knowledge workers no longer toil nine to five in a regular office but spend days and nights in front of their laptops at home or in co-working spaces. Part of the economics of the business model began to change in the 1970's with the work done by Milton Friedman.⁷⁰ Milton was the new father of a new economic model in the 60's through the 80's which in turn set in motion a drastic change that totally tilted workers rights.⁷¹ You can read more on Milton here.⁷²

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<https://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/winter-2017-future-of-work-introduction-no-retreat>

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<https://www.forbes.com/sites/investor/2012/12/14/why-milton-friedman-opposed-right-to-work/#7f4fa18875a9>

⁷¹ <http://www.slobodaiprospertil.tv/en/node/1202>

⁷² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milton_Friedman

The income inequality gap is higher now in our society than any other generation in history. Jaffe says, “Of course, as [Rebecca Burns](#) writes, “it’s much easier to predict the future when you have the power and money to shape it.” As long as this gap is huge, the worker remains in slavery with their CEO. Michael J. Moore in the Winter 2016 NEW POLITICS magazine speaks of this. “Of course, economic inequality raises concern among liberals, social democrats, and socialists alike. For all see in it an ethical problem, one of unfairness, of greed, of unequal control and power. But the new explosion of wealth inequality is much larger in scale than in the previous Gilded Age. It poses different questions with respect to the transformation of capitalism and the classical models and assumptions within which left politics typically operate.^{73”}

Economic inequality leads to broader, more general forms of power and control. Despite the dynamic nature of capitalism, the persistence of oligarchy and elite control should still be seen as the central, salient feature of modern society. To successfully fight this oligarchy is to move more LEFT, such as Democratic Socialism. As well common workers have an ally with one of the original workers union in America. The International Workers of the World, IWW⁷⁴ can assist in organizing, As well grassroots organizations, Our Revolution (Sen. Bernie Sanders spin off group) Our Democracy, The Young Turks, Black Lives Matter, and Democratic Socialists of America,⁷⁵ are all groups which can help amass and organize with breaking up these oligarchies, The early muckrakers left a formidable change for investigative journalists,⁷⁶

The Occupy movement and the Bernie Sanders campaign spotlighted once again the fact that a fairly small number of very rich people dominate the major economic and political institutions of the country.⁷⁷ There is a great documentary on corporations you should watch⁷⁸. The information is useful in exposing how corporatism has run amuck. As

⁷³ <http://newpol.org/content/rise-servant-society>

⁷⁴ www.iww.org

⁷⁵ www.dsusa.org

⁷⁶ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muckraker>

⁷⁷ <http://newpol.org/content/rise-and-fall-muckrakers>

⁷⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHrhqtY2khc>

well Noam Chomsky's Requiem For the American Dream is a must see as well. You can view his question and answer video on YouTube.⁷⁹ The video states. "Chomsky unpacks the principles that have brought us to the crossroads of historically unprecedented inequality. Tracing a half-century of policies designed to favor the most wealthy at the expense of the majority, Chomsky lays bare the costly debris left in its wake: the evisceration of the American worker, disappearance of the living wage, collapse of the dream of homeownership, skyrocketing higher education costs placing betterment beyond reach or shackling students to suffocating debt, and a loss of solidarity that has left us divided against ourselves."

David Swanson in his story for Alternet has said⁸⁰ "the American Dream in the 1950s and 60s was partly real. Both rich and poor got richer. Since then, we've seen the steady advance of what Chomsky calls the plutonomy and the precariat, that is the wealthy few who run the show and get all the new wealth and the precarious proletariat. Back then, taxes were quite high on corporations, dividends, and wealth. Not anymore."

The greed of corporatists today is even greedier than the robber barons of years past. This is the issue. This current exhibition is indicative of the system it has become. It will take many like minded working-class groups to lock arms in resistance and solidarity before the change is possible. No one organization can slay the beast modern corporatism has become. But for a more loving society socialism must take root in America. Or this is the requiem for the American dream.

When Republicans speak of being for capitalism what they really mean is corporatism. They speak of wanting free markets. If we truly had free markets we would have Tesla making all the cars.

⁷⁹<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qk9aSQwkMck>

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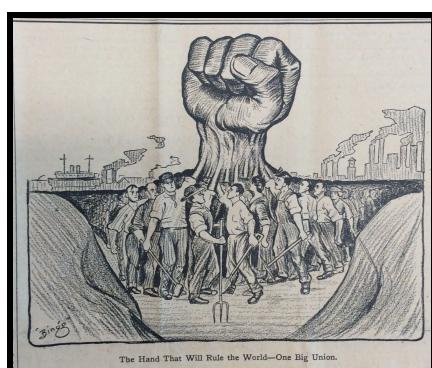
<http://www.alternet.org/news-amp-politics/noam-chomsky-wants-you-wake-american-dream>

Recently I moved to a very rural town with just 600 residents. I wanted to slow down and focus on my writing. The only job opportunity was the only store in town. It was one those general dollar retail stores. The company training video started with the spokesperson reminding me, an employee, my only job was to ensure the shareholder's financial return. As well their voluminous policy books were presented to me.

The expectations of this corporation of their employees were over the top unattainable. Yet the many policies that the board of directors engineered insured that they could belittle the employee into submission. Many of my co-workers could not live up to their expectations. Management constant bitching also produced a lot of depression pill popping employees. There was always a dark depressing feeling emanating from all employees. No employee I met could afford the average \$200 deduction for medical coverage, as most employees were paid a bit above minimum wage. \$200 is a lot when you live in poverty.

I also witnessed the firing of older employees for new hires that were in their late teens or early twenties. The company policies came into play so they could show why fired employees should not be paid unemployment pay. Another corporatist money saving implementation.

This was not the business model I first worked under in the mid-1970. What I explained and witnessed is the new business plan for most all companies. It is the vast rural working-class that suffers the most from capitalism. Who is hurt by all this is the working-class. It is time for working-class to get organized and unionized



Media Wars

I worked over 15 years in the communications media business. First as an on-air personality, then a producer, newspaper journalist, and some public relations writing. During my radio days, I did some news stringing for larger market radio on certain news events. One such time was a murder trial being run in Muskogee, OK. I was working at KBIX and KRMG out of Tulsa, OK asked me to cover it for them. It was while I was at KBIX that the Fairness Doctrine⁸¹ was struck down by President Reagan in June of 1987. During the trial one day the District Attorney wanted to introduce crime scene photographs. The defense lawyers objected citing it would incense the jury. The judge dismissed the jury and reviewed the photographs. The media pool was able to see the photos as well. The judge allowed it to be entered into evidence. The trial continued. I called in my report and Rand LaVonn, KRMG News, recorded it. He asked me if I saw the photos. At that point, I asked for the recording device to be turned off. I confirmed with Rand if it was off. He assured me that it was. I then described the gruesomeness of the photos. Later that night my brother called from Tulsa stating that my news story had totally grossed him out enough that he could not eat dinner. The next day I called Rand and asked why he had lied to me on turning the recorder off. He said, "It's 5pm prime time news. If it bleeds it leads." I told him he was being unethical and I quit stringing for KRMG. That was my first time in seeing the demise of ethical, honest news media in broadcasting.

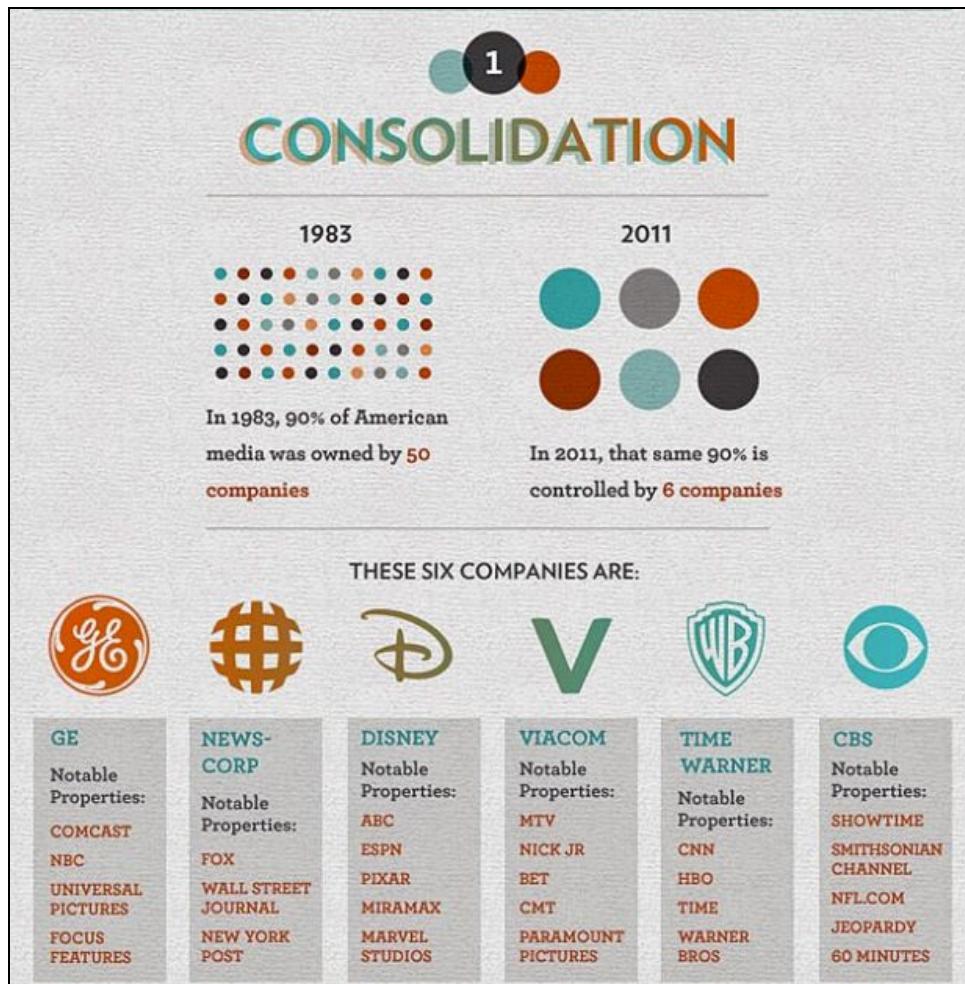
The Fairness Doctrine also established some guidelines with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in how many markets a media company could own stations. After the repeal in 1987, you began to see media outlets merging and buying out smaller markets. During this time you saw media groups diversify and get involved financially with all forms of media. Whether it was radio, television, magazines, print, and movie studios the ownership dwindled to just a handful of groups.

Presently six media group's own 90% of all media consumed by U.S. citizens.⁸² Six companies tell you their editorial views or slant whether it is

⁸¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fairness_Doctrine

⁸² <http://www.morriscreative.com/6-corporations-control-90-of-the-media-in-america/>

radio, television, print, or movies. And knowing what we do on the capitalist present company policy it is being driven by advertisement. Forbes reported in 2016 that fifteen billionaires own the media in the United States.⁸³



<http://static2.businessinsider.com/image/4fd9ee1e6bb3f7af5700000a/media-infographic.jpg>

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[https://www.forbes.com/sites/katevinton/2016/06/01/these-15-billionaires-own-americas-news-media-companies/1](https://www.forbes.com/sites/katevinton/2016/06/01/these-15-billionaires-own-americas-news-media-companies/)

Movement 4 People's Democracy



The above graphic⁸⁴ shows the main parent companies and all their subsidiaries. These few companies pay for advertising with the six companies that own 90% of our media. Those fifteen billionaires are the capitalists that allow other billionaires to usurp our decision making while we gladly turn our money over to them. Do you see how sick this system is? As well, the editorial decisions by these media group are always driven by money. So our news no longer is merely the facts but carefully worded spin to make billionaires more money. I say get off this merry go round. Stop the madness.

There are plenty of reliable progressive and leftist independently owned media you can get real news from. I personally get my news from such outlets and no longer dragged along by a chain with the mainstream news. Mainstream news misleads, misguides, and has a hidden agenda. Don't be played by the capitalists owned news outlets. It's a money game.

I will list some reliable progressive media outlets you can trust. Democracy Now,⁸⁵ The Young Turks⁸⁶, Thom Hartman⁸⁷ are great television

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http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-3n_GbJVCiU/UnUmZ-3ntzI/AAAAAAAAX04/WShRP19HwEc/s1600/10+Mega-Corporations.png

⁸⁵ <https://www.democracynow.org>

based news. Print sources are The Nation⁸⁸, In These Times⁸⁹, Monthly Review⁹⁰, Dissent⁹¹, New Politics⁹², Yes⁹³, Mother Jones⁹⁴. Internet based is The People's World⁹⁵, Mint Press News⁹⁶, and Al Jazeera⁹⁷. New locally produced progressive media is popping up all the time. Support these alternative sources. The real truth is with them. If you get away from the mainstream news you also slowly hurt the capitalist owned bourgeoisie newsgroups. Every chain we break weakens them. Every time a new progressive news aware person awakes, the stronger the resistance becomes. Be part of the solution. Not part of the problem.

A great documentary to watch is called *The Brainwashing of My Dad*.⁹⁸ Their website synopsis says, “As filmmaker, Jen Senko, tries to understand the transformation of her father from a non political, lifelong Democrat to an angry, Right-Wing fanatic, she uncovers the forces behind the media that changed him completely: a plan by Roger Ailes under Nixon for a media takeover by the GOP, The Powell Memo urging business leaders to influence institutions of public opinion, especially the universities, the media and the courts, and under Reagan, the dismantling of the Fairness Doctrine.” Personally, I’ve witnessed what was the greatest time for journalists. And I’ve seen what has become the ruin of journalism. Today I write for a 98-year old established progressive leftist news media. I know what I write and what my editors stand for is social justice and truth. We all make choices. In media, those of us on the front lines for the resistance need to set the example.

⁸⁶ <https://tytnetwork.com>

⁸⁷ <https://www.thomhartmann.com>

⁸⁸ <https://www.thenation.com>

⁸⁹ <https://inthesetimes.com>

⁹⁰ <https://monthlyreview.org>

⁹¹ <https://www.dissentmagazine.org>

⁹² <https://newpol.org>

⁹³ www.yesmagazine.org

⁹⁴ www.motherjones.com

⁹⁵ <https://peoplesworld.org>

⁹⁶ www.mintpressnews.com

⁹⁷ <http://www.aljazeera.com/>

⁹⁸ <http://www.thebrainwashingofmydad.com/>

Movement 4 People's Democracy

February, 1922

Y O U T H

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The Bourgeois Press

(From the "Correspondence of the Young International")

What is the Press? What do we mean when we speak of the Press? This is very important and something we should all understand, for it is the Press that moulds Public Opinion. Nay, further, it is the press that controls the World! The Press is the great machine that issues the news. It not only publishes newspapers but it is the instrument whereby we get our printed matter and ultimately, our ideas and knowledge. Now I have said that the workers, and especially the young workers, should get a thorough conception of what this means. Why? Firstly it being a newsproducer and the source of information the workers should know whether the matter contained in the publications are true and accurate. Now comes the great problem:

Can we rely upon the Capitalist Press as being truthful?

I declare most emphatically, No! How can it possibly be, seeing that it is owned and controlled by the Capitalists and therefore the factory and landowners. But probably you will ejaculate, "What does it matter who owns the Press, as long as they publish the news?" Of course it matters. Let me explain. The wealthiest people are the people who can form themselves into a group with the object of "running" a newspaper. This group is known as a Syndicate, and it is the object of this syndicate to make the Paper a "paying concern" in order to assure their shareholders receiving good dividends. Here we have already gained some knowledge, i. e.,

That the Press is not to supply the People with News, but rather their Shareholders with Profits!

Now, the man who buys the most shares has the most say in the management of the paper and therefore takes the position of the Managing Director, and subsequently the other shareholders take their position on the paper, according to the amount of shares they have bought. Now, who are the people who can buy the most shares in order to have the decisive voice on the policy of the paper? Naturally, the factory and landowners. Your Bosses. What is the result of such owned papers?

Any news coming in which is liable to interfere with the owners' interests or is apt to make the workers discontented is immediately distorted or altogether suppressed. In the last miners' lock-out it was necessary to "manufacture" wicked tales about the miners. So Editors turned their hands to producing slander and lies. If they fail to make an impression by one method, they try another, usually one that will appeal to the humanitarian instinct of the people. So they said that the miners were leaving the pit ponies down in the mines to starve and in some cases to drown. And you who read this stuff never for a

moment doubt the integrity of such news, and never stop to think that the miner is no different from any other human being, and therefore is just as humane. Now, let us imagine for a moment, that the steel workers come out in strike. We do not make sufficient inquiries to find out who owns certain papers. If we did, we might learn that the owner happens to have great interests vested in the steelworks with the result that

he publishes lies!
he must publish lies!

--and a distorted report of the demands of the workers. The workers' leaders evading this, send in correct information regarding the strike, and do the News Controllers publish it? Not by any means. Wherever there happens to be a Communist Leader, there, again, we receive news to the effect that "a most peculiar individual, who breathes blood and Revolution and carries bombs in his pockets" is engaged in such and such an area in misleading the people--hence the strike. Then they go a little farther by declaring that that sort of discontent is being encouraged by alien elements that ought to be deported. Every single one of them!

But, of course, we know that the aliens are just as we are--wage slaves. That they have nothing to gain by stirring up the people and that, were they deported, they would still be wage slaves.

Do you know that when Big Business wants a war, in order to appease their lust for Profits, they resort to Newspaper Propaganda. They publish as many falsehoods as possible concerning the particular Nation they want to prey upon until they make your minds quite ripe for war. The rest is easy. Big Business finances the Government and State projects, and therefore Big Business has a say in the affairs of State, in which they interest themselves to such an extent as to create misery and despair which inevitably follows war.

I think I have told you sufficient to make you realize that under Capitalism Truth will never be forthcoming, and I have no doubt, that you, young workers, who read this, will understand, that we, as the future men and women of this world, have got to alter this Press System. The Truth will only be published when the workers print and publish their own papers. Your parents have the "Communist" and now you have the "Young Communist." This paper is yours because it is your money and the money of your fellow workers that produces it. Help to maintain it! Encourage the publication of Truth! by buying it, reading it, and joining the Young Communist League.

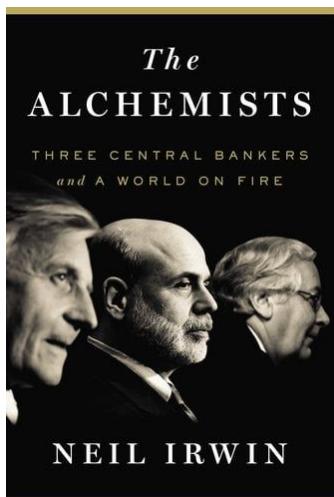
Not much has changed from 1922⁹⁹?

⁹⁹ Young, Young Workers League of New York, 1922, page 15, New York.
<https://www.marxists.org/history//usa/pubs/youngworker/v1n1-feb-1922-yw.pdf>

Give Me That Money

The nightmarish covert manner that our Federal Reserve was created is worth studying. Anytime greed, corporatists, bourgeoisie are involved it is downright icky.

The mustachioed man in the silk top hat strode to his private railcar parked at a New Jersey train station, a mahogany-paneled affair with velvet drapes and well-polished brass accents. Five more men — and a legion of porters and servants — soon joined him. They referred to one another by their first names only, an uncommon informality in 1910, intended to give the staff no hints as to who the men actually were, lest rumors make their way to the newspapers and then to the trading floors of New York and London. One of the men, a German immigrant named Paul Warburg, carried a borrowed shotgun in order to look like a duck hunter, despite having never drawn a bead on a waterfowl in his life.



Adapted from “The Alchemists: Three Central Bankers and a World on Fire,” by Neil Irwin. Irwin, a Washington Post columnist and economics editor of Wonkblog, was the Post’s beat reporter covering the Federal Reserve and other central banks from 2007 to 2012. The book tells of how the central bankers came to exert vast power over the global economy, from their 17th century beginnings to the present, and tells the inside story of how they wielded that power from 2007 on as they fought a global financial crisis. Excerpted by permission of The Penguin Press, a

member of the Penguin Group (USA), © Neil Irwin. Buy it from Amazon here¹⁰⁰.

¹⁰⁰ <https://goo.gl/G8eZNL>

Two days later, the car deposited the men at the small Georgia port town of Brunswick, where they boarded a boat for the final leg of their journey. Jekyll Island, their destination, was a private resort owned by the powerful banker J.P. Morgan and some friends, a refuge on the Atlantic where they could get away from the cold New York winter. Their host – the man in the silk top hat – was Nelson Aldrich, one of the most powerful senators of the day, a lawmaker who lorded over the nation's financial matters.

For nine days, working all day and into the night, the six men debated how to reform the U.S. banking and monetary systems, trying to find a way to make this nation just finding its footing on the global stage less subject to the kinds of financial collapses that had seemingly been conquered in Western Europe. Secrecy was paramount. "Discovery," wrote one attendee later, "simply must not happen, or else all our time and effort would have been wasted. If it were to be exposed publicly that our particular group had got together and written a banking bill, that bill would have no chance whatever of passage by Congress."¹⁰¹

G. Edward Griffin also has written an insightful book on this. It's entitled "*The Creature from Jekyll Island*".¹⁰² You need to realize that this entity is unaudited. It is comprised by International financiers who CONTROL the American banking system. It was designed and set up this way for a purpose. This purpose does NOT have best interests of the common worker class. Designed to enslave the working class and continues to as well.

They are private bankers in business to make money. The economists teach us that the Federal Reserve is good. That it's beneficial and keeps recessions at bay. But realize they are part of the hidden agenda to keep average working class in the dark. They are private, not a government agency. They are international bankers with absolutely no

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https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2013/12/21/the-federal-reserve-was-created-100-years-ago-this-is-how-it-happened/?utm_term=.429c2097fa82

102 <https://archive.org/details/CreatureFromJekyllIslandByG.EdwardGriffin>

national allegiance. In any country they operate they have no allegiance either.

The Federal Treasury issues a bond to the Federal Reserve. Who then the FRB authorise and secures the printing of that currency. The US Treasury then prints a Federal Reserve Note based upon amount of the bond. Look at your bills it says on the front Federal Reserve NOTE. These bonds bears interest to the FRB. We are basically paying interest to print our own money.

In essence we perceive a dollar to have value. So if you dump a Trillion dollars into the market, you've basically diluted the value of the dollar. That process is called quantitative easement. Yes more money is floating about but it keeps getting less and less value.

Let's talk gold. Gold has not went up or down in over 100 years. Same gold will buy you the same amount of goods and services as it did 100 years ago. What has gone up is the amount of cash it takes to buy.

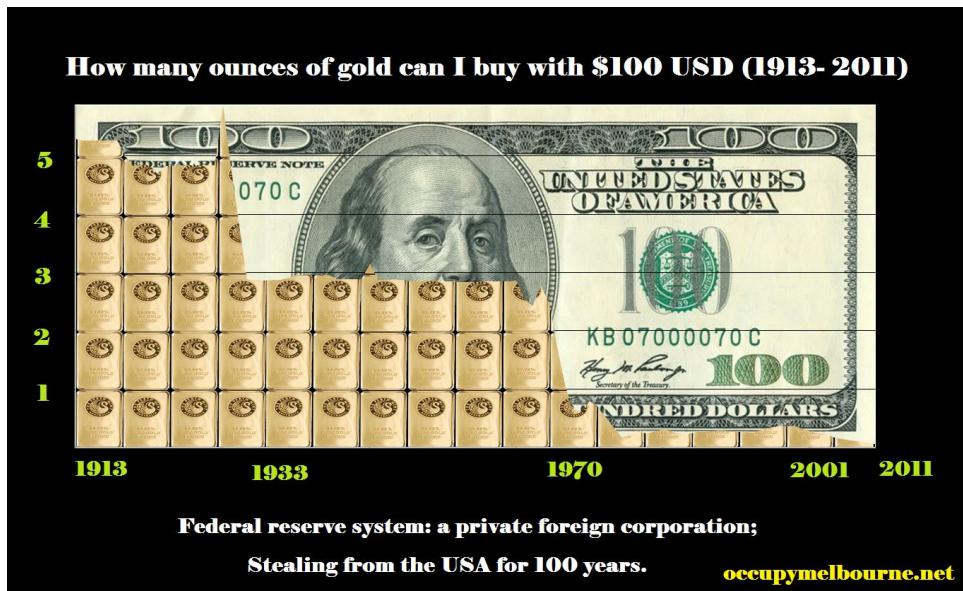
German, Max Warburg was head of German banks, and England financiers were part of the International bankers that set up FRB. Then they loaned US money for printing currency. Why are International folks involved instead of our own Treasury?

How does this affect grassroots revolutionaries? We need to get rid of privately owned central banks! Thomas Jefferson said, "If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their money, first by inflation and then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around them (around the banks), will deprive the people of their property until their children will wake up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered.¹⁰³ George Washington said in a letter, Jan. 9, 1787 "Paper money has had the effect in your state that it will ever have, to ruin commerce, oppress the honest, and open the door to every species of fraud and injustice."

Our world is based on fiat paper money, meaning it is not backed by any commodity. No gold, no silver, no commodity, baseless paper. We strive to work to get paper money. It is a magic spell or wizardry that creates this myth that paper money is our goal. To fully understand this, listen to this

¹⁰³ <http://educatorsite.com/?p=904>

podcast.¹⁰⁴ Mike Maloney speaks further on the hidden secrets of money.¹⁰⁵ Maloney has a whole series which is an eye opening truth regarding money¹⁰⁶. Well worth your time to watch. Also this video shows the deception between reality and perceived reality of wealth.¹⁰⁷

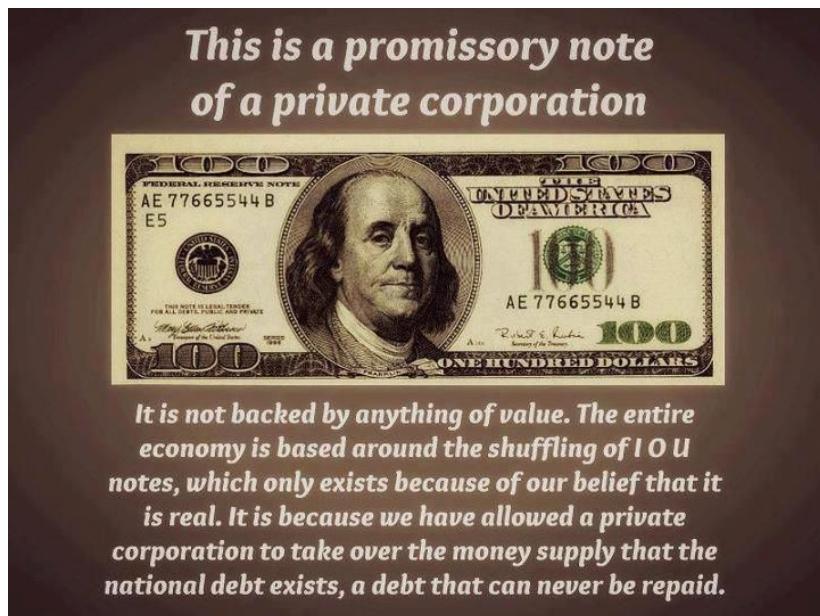
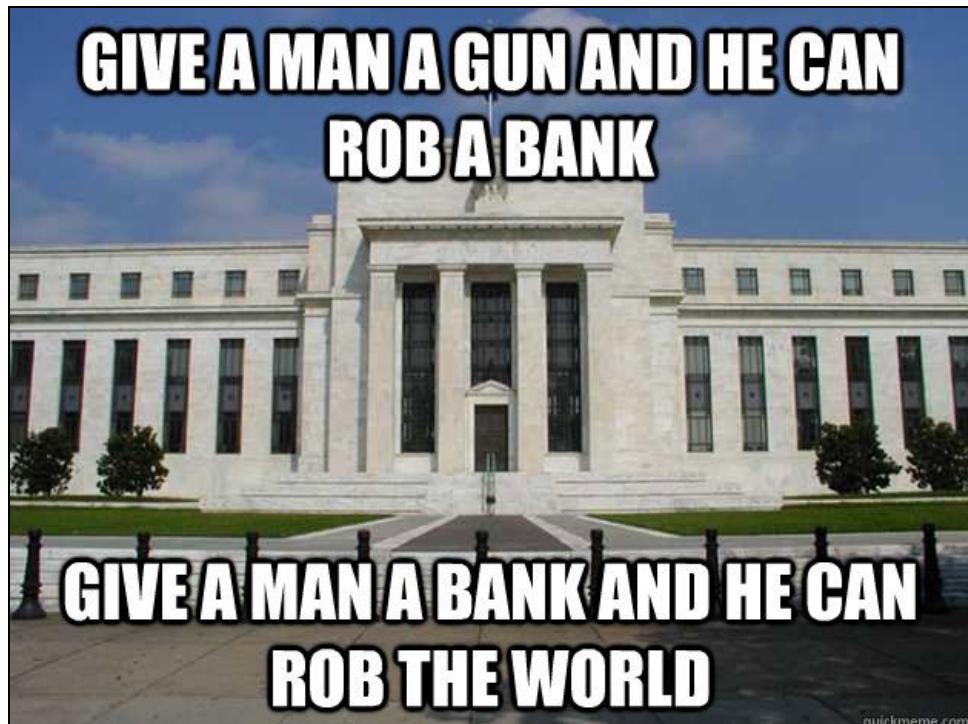


¹⁰⁴ https://youtu.be/05g_mHaSB8s

¹⁰⁵ <https://youtu.be/DyV0OfU3-FU>

¹⁰⁶ <https://goldsilver.com/hidden-secrets/episode-1/>

¹⁰⁷ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sITF_XXoKAQ



What About Germany

When I was in college I had an art minor. I studied exclusively on Kaethe Kollwitz who was a German Expressionist. In her diary she spoke of the Dresden Society and Free Society which she was a member. **Die Brücke**¹⁰⁸ (**The Bridge**) was a group of German expressionist artists formed in Dresden in 1905, after which the Brücke Museum in Berlin was named. Founding members were Fritz Bleyl, Erich Heckel, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner and Karl Schmidt-Rottluff. Later members were Emil Nolde, Max Pechstein, and Otto Mueller. The seminal group had a major impact on the evolution of modern art in the 20th century and the creation of expressionism.

Progenitors of the movement later known as German Expressionism¹⁰⁹, Die Brücke formed in Dresden in 1905 as a bohemian collective of artists in staunch opposition to the older, established bourgeois social order of Germany. Their art confronted feelings of alienation from the modern world by reaching back to pre-academic forms of expression including woodcut prints, carved wooden sculptures, and "primitive" modes of painting. This quest for authentic emotion led to an expressive style characterized by heightened color and a direct, simplified approach to form.

Expressionism was a modernist movement, initially in poetry and painting, originating in Germany at the beginning of the 20th century. Its typical trait is to present the world solely from a subjective perspective, distorting it radically for emotional effect in order to evoke moods or ideas. Expressionist artists sought to express the meaning of emotional experience rather than physical reality.

Kaethe wrote about how these artist groups met weekly. Drinking tea and discussing social issues. The artists were poets, playwrights, musicians, artists, a few philosophers, and writers. What each took away

¹⁰⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Die_Br%C3%BCcke

¹⁰⁹ <http://www.theartstory.org/movement-die-brucke.htm>

from their weekly soiree was an idea or consensus of their talks. These groups were able through the arts to engage society in relation to social issues. It was through the arts that German thoughts were moved more leftists in the late 1800's.

If we look back at the folk artists of the Sixties we see the fabric of expressionism. It was the poets, writers, musicians in America that helped shape public consciousness. Playwrights, art, books, music all were vital components for social change.

Present fascists regimes and Trump's administration is best fought through the arts. Yes, social protesting is just as important. But the leftist ideals and mindset has to emanate from the social consciousness. To achieve this it has to be a coordinated effort from the arts communities.

The artists should begin another modern expressionist movement. Societies made up of various art forms artists. Art must begin to reflect the leftists ideals. Or simply how the current social justice issues need to be on the public minds. The artists rising up from this new movement can help shape public consciousness.

When people think of art, they think of bizarre creations and beautiful intricate paintings hung up in museums. Essentially, the process of bringing an artwork to life is a creative one but art itself can also serve a purpose. It can be used as a way to raise awareness about issues that affect us in our daily lives.¹¹⁰

Art can heal us, inspire us, and alter our brain chemistry.¹¹¹ With so much talk about the evidence of the positive effects of yoga and meditation, you might be surprised at what scientific research also says about how art affects the brain. Long before modern neuroscience, artists were creating works to inspire people and today complex brain imaging scans can show us just how art changes the physiology of our brains. Contemplation, observing, and taking in beauty all stimulate pleasure centers within the brain while increasing blood flow by up to 10% in the

¹¹⁰ <http://www.hongkiat.com/blog/public-awareness-artwork/>

¹¹¹ <http://upliftconnect.com/art-changes-consciousness/>

medial orbitofrontal cortex. This can lead to an elevated state of consciousness, well being, and better emotional health.

Niklas Luhmann, in his book *Art as a Social System*,¹¹² states: In disposing over awareness, consciousness is not usually aware of itself and available to answer questions That it can be drawn upon by social communication only in a unique manner that art can.



Seed Corn Must Not Be Planted Kaethe Kollwitz 1942

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<https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=uEBiiMH6nJ0C&oi=fnd&pg=PA1&dq=social+awareness+through+art&ots=EsvZ-YUIF6&sig=WA8SzExUe72gh2AjREphki7d20k#v=onepage&q&f=false>

Prison Reform

Any attempts to “fix” the correctional system can never be beneficial until the root cause is addressed. Poverty and crime¹¹³ have an “intimate” relationship described by experts from all fields. The United Nations and the World Bank both rank crime high on the list of obstacles to a country’s development. Recent reports reflect that well over half of the USA¹¹⁴ citizens expenses are equal or greater than their income. Wage inequality is the one class separation the capitalists consistently works towards.

On the heels of the lies of President Trump tells, one is most damning. Despite Trump’s promises to punish firms that offshore American jobs, 56 percent¹¹⁵ of the top companies receiving taxpayer dollars continued to send American jobs overseas. Over half of the top companies denied US workers jobs in the first 100 days of Trump’s administration. In Oklahoma¹¹⁶, unemployment rates fluctuate widely.

It is no wonder why America is leading of all the countries in incarceration. Half our workers can’t make ends meet, half of all potential jobs are offshore by the neoliberals and neo fascists. Union busting of the capitalists weaken the labor laws and deny worker rights. Marxists essentially see crime and deviance¹¹⁷ as defined by the ruling class and used as a means of social control¹¹⁸ -if you don’t conform then you will be punished. Institutions like the police, the justice system, prisons and schools, the family and religion are there to encourage you to conform.

The recent prison riot in Hinton, OK reflects a growing trend in correctional settings. The riot was said to have been orchestrated by correctional staff. The riot was between the Irish Mob and United Aryan Brotherhood. Just a few weeks earlier, Oklahoma Correctional director Joe

¹¹³ <http://www.nationaldialoguenetwork.org/poverty-and-crime/>

¹¹⁴ <http://money.cnn.com/2017/06/27/pf/expenses/index.html>

¹¹⁵

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/591dd51215cf7dccdaec8c/t/5925bd131b10e3761b30e717/1495645462261/OffshoringReport.pdf>

¹¹⁶ <http://newsok.com/article/5554464>

¹¹⁷ http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/crime_deviance.htm

¹¹⁸

<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/sociology/crime-and-deviance/marxism-and-crime/>

Allbaugh asked for \$700 million increase¹¹⁹. A well played riot in the press can and did change the public perception. In California, a Mexican Mafia gang had paid a correctional staff¹²⁰ to allow a riot. The Captain who committed suicide was a lieutenant at Folsom while I was incarcerated there. I can personally attest to many correctional officers corruption on many levels. There are many examples of correctional manipulation of riots leading to increased budget requests in the news. This manipulation of incarcerated individuals is horrific.

One possible option if Oklahoma eliminates the death penalty are private prisons¹²¹. However, that may not be the case in Oklahoma. In 1985, while attending college, I visited family in Oklahoma's capital who were well placed within the then Democrat held powerbase. Basically, the private prison industry was courting legislators with pre-filled legislative bills to be introduced allowing for private prisons in Oklahoma. The trade off with the Democrat leaders if such legislation passed, free stock with the private prison corporation. Ten years later¹²², the Democrats sold out Oklahoma for private prisons. I knew of this "stocks for votes" proposal as I read it verbatim during the spring of 1986. Rigged politics is part of the systemic problem within the correctional setting.

Since 1973, 153 persons¹²³ have been exonerated from death row in the United States. The horrific execution of Clayton Lockett¹²⁴ age 38 on April 29, 2014, by the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, the Oklahoma

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<http://kfor.com/2017/06/27/its-already-hit-the-iceberg-oklahoma-prisons-overflowing-with-inmates/>

120

<http://m.sfgate.com/news/article/Anguished-prison-guard-My-job-has-killed-me-2810483.php>

p

121 <http://deathpenaltyenglish101.weebly.com/private-prisons.html>

122

http://www.tulsaworld.com/archives/senators-approve-private-prison-bill/article_22c45947-f539-5a90-a03c-6a0a2c6aa906.html

123

<https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/innocence-and-death-penalty>

124

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/apr/30/oklahoma-execution-botched-clayton-lockett>

Death Penalty Review Commission¹²⁵, ODPRC, was formed. Locket was administered an untested mixture of chemicals that caused him to have a heart attack and die 43 minutes after the drugs were administered. Just recently, they released their year-long study¹²⁶ with recommendations for the State of Oklahoma. It is a first of its kind in the United States.

The ODPRC came together shortly after the state imposed a suspension on executions in October 2015. The moratorium was imposed at the request of the Oklahoma Attorney General to allow for a grand jury investigation of Oklahoma's execution protocol. In May 2016, the grand jury issued a highly critical report and exposed many deeply troubling failures in Oklahoma's execution process. Notably, the grand jury report concluded: "justice has been delayed for the victims' families and the citizens of Oklahoma, and confidence further shaken in the ability of this State to carry out the death penalty."

The bipartisan committee just released their findings¹²⁷ of which state legislators will hopefully enact new laws. The commissioners endorsed 46 recommendations, including improvements to Oklahoma's criminal justice system, policy changes, improved funding.

Former Governor Brad Henry¹²⁸, a co-chair of ODPRC, said, "the thing most surprising, even shocking, is the depth and persistence of faults within the criminal justice system and the state's death penalty procedures." At the press conference, he told 41 reporters, "at some point it is likely we have executed an innocent person."

¹²⁵ <http://okdeathpenaltyreview.org/about/>

¹²⁶ <http://okdeathpenaltyreview.org/the-report/>

¹²⁷

<http://city-sentinel.com/2017/06/members-of-the-oklahoma-death-penalty-review-commission-worked-dutifully-for-one-year-read-the-report/>

¹²⁸

<http://city-sentinel.com/2017/06/members-of-the-oklahoma-death-penalty-review-commission-worked-dutifully-for-one-year-read-the-report/>

The Economist¹²⁹ reported in 2009 that many states facing budgetary crisis would eliminate the death penalty. Studies¹³⁰ do show that the cost of execution is far more expensive than life in prison¹³¹. Oklahoma under the Republican-controlled legislature for eight years has left the state near bankrupt status. Cash-strapped Oklahoma recently had the DOC director ask for more money¹³², approximately \$700 million more over ten years.

Oklahoma¹³³ has exonerated ten persons from death row since 1981. Oklahoma currently has 48¹³⁴ persons on death row. In America, non-death penalty prisoners exonerated, since 1989, there have been more than 1,400 exonerations in America, including 27¹³⁵ in Oklahoma. Innocent persons could have been executed as former Gov. Henry states, which makes a strong case to abolish the death penalty. With all these plus whatever may be buried by Oklahoma's murky swamp of corruptions, it may be best to abolish the death penalty. Too much is at stake to get it wrong, again, by any means.

While Karl Marx¹³⁶ did not write a lot about this, his theories have spurned some critical analysis. Marx said, "Plainly speaking¹³⁷, and

¹²⁹ <http://www.economist.com/node/13279051>

¹³⁰ <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/FactSheet.pdf>

¹³¹

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/kellyphillipserb/2014/05/01/considering-the-death-penalty-you-r-tax-dollars-at-work/#367b187b664b>

¹³²

<http://kfor.com/2017/06/27/its-already-hit-the-iceberg-oklahoma-prisons-overflowing-with-inmates/>

¹³³

https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/innocence?inno_name=&exonerated=&state_innocence=34&race=All&DNA=All

¹³⁴ https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/state_by_state

¹³⁵ <http://newsok.com/article/5341408>

¹³⁶

<http://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/view?docId=ft4q2nb3dn&chunk.id=d0e1788&toc.id=d0e559&brand=ucpress>

¹³⁷

<http://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/view?docId=ft4q2nb3dn&doc.view=popup&chunk.id=fnd0e2397>

dispensing with all paraphrases, punishment is nothing but a means of society to defend itself against the infraction of its vital conditions, whatever may be their character. Now, what a state of society is which knows of no better instrument for its own defense than the hangman, and which proclaims through the “leading journal of the world” [The Times] its own brutality as eternal law?” What Marx barely hints at here, but central to the Marxist argument, is it is precisely with its use that punishment is unjust. Marx further states his premise, “The legal system is an apparatus created to secure the interests of the dominant class.” His writings further expose the ruling class keeps downtrodden the working class. The bourgeoisie capitalists class imposes their will upon the working class in acts as the authoritarian¹³⁸ manner.

True revolutionary change for the criminal justice machine must come from our Marxists ideas. The root cause is set up with the capitalists’ authority over the workers. The workers must organize, rise up, and gain control of the ways and means of production. This will surely bring revolutionary change inside the criminal justice system. If we, as a society, can do this, then we will not lead with the highest incarceration rates.

Mark Salay¹³⁹ of KWBU says, “The use of prison labor, and its meager compensation, has long been a contentious issue. But while it is private prisons that get a lot of media attention¹⁴⁰ for their for-profit business model, wages for the incarcerated in public and federal prisons, which hold the vast majority of inmates, have declined over the past two decades.”

Data compiled by the Prison Policy Initiative shows that the average incarcerated worker in state and federal prison now earns 86 cents¹⁴¹ per day, a 7 cent decrease from 2001 when inmates earned 93 cents for a day’s work.

The nation’s incarceration rate has spiked as much as 500 percent in the last 40 years¹⁴², driven in part by the War on Drugs and bipartisan

¹³⁸ <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1872/10/authority.htm>

¹³⁹ <http://kwbu.org/post/when-prison-costs-are-steep-and-pay-close-nothing#stream/0>

¹⁴⁰

<http://www.npr.org/2016/08/25/491340335/investigation-into-private-prisons-reveals-crowding-under-staffing-and-inmate-de>

¹⁴¹ <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2017/04/10/wages/>

¹⁴² <http://www.sentencingproject.org/issues/incarceration/>

“tough-on-crime” policies. While the prison population has skyrocketed, government funding for housing the prisoners have not kept up. That has forced the incarcerated to help pay for the high cost of their imprisonment through steep fees. Coupled with low or in some cases non-existent wages, that has left inmates in destitute conditions throughout their sentence.

“The cost of living goes up every year on the outside and they don't just account for that in prison,” said Cole Dorsey, an organizer for the [Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee](#)¹⁴³, an offshoot of the Industrial Workers of the World union.

The Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC), website says, they are a prisoner-led section of the [Industrial Workers of the World](#)¹⁴⁴. They struggle to end prison slavery along with allies and supporters on the outside. On September 9, 2016, they were part of a coalition of inside and outside groups that launched the largest prison strike in US history. Resistance to prison slavery continues with work stoppages, hunger strikes and other acts of resistance to business as usual.

But it will take a mass movement - inside and out - to abolish prison slavery. They now have [branches](#)¹⁴⁵ in over 15 prisons and their membership continues to grow. They invite all those who agree with their statement of purpose to [join them](#)¹⁴⁶ and to start a local branch in their prison, city, or trailer park. IWW membership is free to those incarcerated and is based on income for those on the outside. They ask supporters to sponsor a prisoner's membership for just \$5 a month.

Incarcerated people are legally slaves as per the 13th Amendment which abolished "slavery and involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for a crime". We are legally slaves. If you've been to prison you'd know we are treated like slaves.

¹⁴³ <https://incarceratedworkers.org/>

¹⁴⁴ <http://iww.org/>

¹⁴⁵ <https://incarceratedworkers.org/branches>

¹⁴⁶ <https://incarceratedworkers.org/get-involved>

Billions are made annually off their backs. Outrageously priced or grossly inadequate privatized 'services' like healthcare, food, phone calls, assault our humanity - they feed us like animals, suck our families dry, and when sick leave us to die. The government spends as much as an elite college tuition per person to keep each of us incarcerated, but this money does not develop us as human beings, reduce crime or make our communities safer.

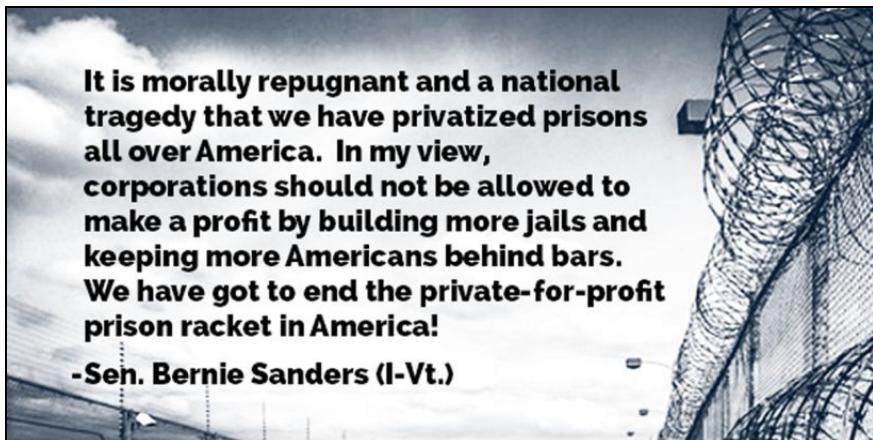
They also profit from their labor. At least [half of the nation's 1.5 million](#)¹⁴⁷ of those imprisoned in the United States have jobs yet are paid pennies an hour, or even nothing at all. Many of them perform the essential work needed to run the prisons themselves - mopping cellblock floors, preparing and serving food, filing papers and other prison duties. Others of work in "[correction industries programs](#)"¹⁴⁸ performing work in areas such as clothing and textile, computer aided design, electronics, and recycling activities. Some even sub-contract with private corporations such as Sprint, Starbucks, Victoria's Secret, and much more.

Prisoners are some of the most exploited workers in the country. There is no minimum wage for prison labor. The average wage is 20 cents an hour, with some states not paying a wage at all. Up to 80% of wages can be withheld by prison officials. There are very few safety regulations and no worker's compensation for injury on the job. While in prison, they try to earn money to support their families, themselves and pay victim restitution yet these wages prevent them from that. They believe that as workers they are guaranteed the same protections and wages as other workers. IWOC is working to abolish prison slavery and this system that does not correct anyone or make our communities safer.

¹⁴⁷

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2016/09/27/a-primer-on-the-nationwide-prisoners-strike#.fGVBXfl1t>

¹⁴⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Prison_Industries#Activities



The late Rose Braz, a longtime staffer and member of Critical Resistance emphasized this point in a [2008 interview](#)¹⁴⁹. “A prerequisite to seeking any social change is the naming of it,” she said. “In other words, even though the goal we seek may be far away, unless we name it and fight for it today, it will never come.” This is the starting point of abolition, connecting a radical critique of prisons and other forms of state violence with a broader transformative vision.¹⁵⁰

In a recent article for Jacobin, Dan Berger, Mariame Kaba, and David Stein report¹⁵¹ that these strategies and tactics harmonize with, inspire, and are inspired by many other left traditions. Socialists do not fight for trade unions in order to institutionalize capitalist social relations or build an aristocracy of labor. They do so in order to create durable structures that undermine the power of employers to exploit workers. And they do so with a radical humanist tradition in mind as well — to make actual people’s lives better, to overcome sexual harassment, to reduce workplace injuries, to build solidarity among workers, and, ideally, “to create the new world in the shell of the old.”

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<http://dissidentvoice.org/2008/07/organizing-to-abolish-the-prison-industrial-complex/>

150 <https://jacobinmag.com/2017/08/prison-abolition-reform-mass-incarceration>

151 <https://jacobinmag.com/2017/08/prison-abolition-reform-mass-incarceration>

Corporations and governments collude in prison slavery racket



In this Feb. 1, 2012 photo, inmate William Adams, of Hazlehurst, Ga., sews a laundry bag while working in a garment shop at Coxsackie Correctional Facility in Coxsackie, N.Y. New York prisons instituted a mandatory work program in the early 1990s and most of their 56,000 inmates have jobs, earning as little as 10 cents an hour. | Mike Groll / AP

Whose money is it? Many departments of corrections (DOCs) supplement their state budgets with business deals. These deals mean free or under 50-cents-per-hour use of prison workers. It's a billion-dollar industry that many Americans know nothing about.

Over 50 prominent American corporations have been exposed for using prison laborers to reduce their payroll costs over the last several years. Prior to 2016, organic grocery giant Whole Foods sold a \$12-a-pound bag of tilapia that was labeled "from sustainable American family farms." This family farm was actually Colorado prisoners making 74 cents a day¹⁵² or less. And their fancy goat cheese? The goats and milk were produced by the same prisoners. Whole Foods saved money and the Colorado

¹⁵²news.vice.com/article/whole-foods-expensive-cheese-and-the-dilemma-of-cheap-prison-labor

Department of Corrections likely made a bundle.

Some McDonald's crew member uniforms are made by prisoners making even less money¹⁵³—a lot less—than the ones who wear the uniforms. Walmart has been known to buy produce from prison-run gardens. Female inmates in South Carolina have in the past sewn intimate apparel for Victoria's Secret. In fact, whistleblowing¹⁵⁴ inmates were placed in solitary confinement when they exposed that they had been told to remove “Made in Honduras” labels and replace them with “Made in America” labels. In 1993, AT&T laid off thousands of union employees in call centers to be replaced by a prisoner answering¹⁵⁵ call center. Those prisoners made less than \$2 a day.

The website¹⁵⁶ of Buycott, which encourages consumers to make sure the companies they shop with match their principles, lists many surprising American companies who have relied on exploited prison labor. They include: Abbott Laboratories, Autozone, Bank of America, Bayer, Cargill, Caterpillar, Chevron, Costco, John Deere, Eli Lilly, GlaxoSmithKline, International Paper, Johnson & Johnson, Sears, Koch Industries, Mary Kay, Merck, Motorola, Pfizer, ConAgra Foods, Starbucks, United Airlines, UPS, Verizon, Wendy's. When you purchase products from these companies, you might be unknowingly participating in the prison labor system.

On a side note, but worth mentioning: The hidden fact is that just ten companies own the world markets for most of the products we use in our homes everyday. Many of the corporate titans of the Trump era (and within his administration) are essentially the same exploiters who have dominated our economy for the past century. Yet what is more pronounced today is that some of those companies are exploiting prison workers by using a loophole in the 13th Amendment¹⁵⁷ to the U.S. Constitution.

¹⁵³aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2017/09/slavery-prison-system-170901082522072.html

¹⁵⁴motherjones.com/politics/2008/07/what-do-prisoners-make-victorias-secret

¹⁵⁵<https://www.prisonlegalnews.org/news/1993/apr/15/att-exploits-prison-labor/>

¹⁵⁶buycott.com/campaign/companies/504/boycott-companies-that-use-prison-labor

¹⁵⁷peoplesworld.org/article/florida-prisoners-on-strike-demand-locked-up-voices-be-heard/

A recent National Review¹⁵⁸ article by Chandra Bozelko speaks directly and personally about prison slavery. “Getting Congress to amend the tax code and define even unpaid prison labor as employment in the coming session would trade the language of oppression—calling what inmates do slavery—for the language of power—calling their activity employment—and change prisoners’ mindsets and views of themselves,” she writes. “In addition to changing prisoners’ self-concept, allowing them to collect unemployment benefits can change their ability to support themselves when they leave custody and help them remain law-abiding and free.”

Prison Policy Initiative¹⁵⁹ lists state by state the average prison worker’s wage. In several states—mostly in the South—prisoners receive absolutely no pay for jobs they may do. In some others, they may earn up to \$56 a month for a full-time 7-hour-a-day job. The most well-paid may break \$100 a month, again, for a full-time job. And these numbers, in many cases, are going down, not up.

Mark Salay of KWBU says, “The use of prison labor, and its meager compensation, has long been a contentious issue. But while it is private prisons that get a lot of media attention¹⁶⁰ for their for-profit business model, wages for the incarcerated in public and federal prisons, which hold the vast majority of inmates, have declined over the past two decades.”

The nation’s incarceration rate has spiked as much as 500 percent¹⁶¹ in the last 40 years, driven in part by the War on Drugs and bipartisan “tough-on-crime” policies. While the prison population has skyrocketed, government funding for housing the prisoners has not kept up. That has forced the incarcerated to help pay for the high cost of their imprisonment through steep fees. Coupled with low or in some cases non-existent wages, that has left inmates in destitute conditions over the course of their sentence.

¹⁵⁸ <http://www.nationalreview.com/article/443747/prison-labor-laws-wages>

¹⁵⁹ https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/wage_policies.html

¹⁶⁰ www.npr.org/2016/08/25/491340335/investigation-into-private-prisons-reveals-crowding-under-staffing-and-inmate-de

¹⁶¹ <http://www.sentencingproject.org/issues/incarceration/>

“The cost of living goes up every year on the outside and they don’t just account for that in prison,” said Cole Dorsey, an organizer for the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee¹⁶² (IWOC), an offshoot of the Industrial Workers of the World union.

IWOC allies itself with prisoners and states on their website:

“Prisoners are some of the most exploited workers in the country. There are very few safety regulations and no worker’s compensation for injury on the job. While in prison, [prisoners] try to earn money to support their families, themselves and pay victim restitution yet these wages prevent them from that.”

IWOC says it is working to abolish prison slavery and argues the current corrections system “does not correct anyone or make our communities safer.”

An honest and heartfelt discussion on exploiting prison workers is necessary for any true change to happen. Amending the 13th Amendment as it relates to prison slavery is a must. Becoming aware of the plight of these exploited workers by society is another.

Only ten corporations control most of the household brands we all buy¹⁶³.

¹⁶² <https://incarceratedworkers.org/>

¹⁶³ <http://www.convergencealimentaire.info/map.jpg>

It's Christmas Time....Capitalism's ruin of children by sex trafficking

"Capitalism ruins lives, as seen in the documentary on child sex trafficking, I AM JANE DOE¹⁶⁴," Mark Maxey, Movement 4 People's Democracy National Coordinator states. "Backpage owners make \$71 Million in 2012, \$112.7 Million in 2013, \$134.9 Million in 2014, and \$153 Million in 2015, the documentary states."

\$471.6 Million in 4 years, almost half a billion dollars. Some of that profit was made by pimps selling 12-year-olds - 17-year-old abducted girls. "Don't tell me capitalism and the lure of wealth does not ruin peoples lives," Maxey reiterated. "The owners of Backpage got wealthy beyond imagination while the lives of the little girls were drugged, raped (some 20 times a day), through online sex ads."

Tonya spent night after night in different hotel rooms, with different men, all at the command of someone she once trusted. She was held against her will, beaten and made to feel like she had no other option at the time, all by the man she thought she loved.

When Tonya¹⁶⁵ was 13, she met Eddie (a pseudonym) at the apartment she was living in with her mother in the Dallas, Texas, area. His estranged wife was the property manager. Tonya was classmates with Eddie's stepdaughter, so the two would often see each other at the apartment and in the local grocery store. It was there that the two first exchanged numbers. This is how Tonya was first recruited for sex trafficking.

Rebecca Fairley Raney states in her story, Unseen Victims of Sex Trafficking

¹⁶⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_Am_Jane_Doe

¹⁶⁵ <https://www.ice.gov/features/human-trafficking-victim-shares-story>

¹⁶⁶, she says...

"A few years ago, social worker Steven Procopio was listening to a discussion among a group of middle-aged homeless men at a Boston health-care agency when he recognized that his group had a terrible secret in common: Many of these men, at some point in their lives, had been trafficked. For Procopio, the realization led to a wholesale shift in context for working with men and boys who suffer from complex trauma."

"Capitalism kills, and the by-products from Capitalism ruins people's lives," Maxey says. "We must in 2019 begin a revolution by CRUSHING CAPITALISM!"

Backpage at one time was owned by Village Voice Media. VVM had a long history of progressive anti-establishment reporting. When the owners of VVM were exposed as owners of Backpage what they did next, was typical of how capitalism corrupts people.

The owners sold VVM but kept Backpage. No wonder, making \$471 Million profit in 4 years, while destroying the lives of young girls.

That story line above¹⁶⁷ and others^{168 169} on how Backpage escaped for years before being took down, is how capitalism ruins lives.

CRUSH CAPITALISM!

How these entrepreneurs hid behind the law, used illegal means to make their wealth, and some of that wealth at the hands of underage girls is sickening!

¹⁶⁶ <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2017/04/sex-trafficking.aspx>

¹⁶⁷ <https://goo.gl/nbJt59>

¹⁶⁸ <https://goo.gl/AAGryC>

¹⁶⁹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Backpage>

Final Push

“... the young people are the ones who most quickly identify with the struggle and the necessity to eliminate the evil conditions that exist.”
Malcolm X¹⁷⁰, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers’ Power.

History has a way of repeating itself. Our movement against the oppressor has shown many times clusters of persons rising up to overthrow the status quo. During the recent Occupy Movement tens of thousands gathered to bring awareness of wage inequality; removing corporations from the influence of politics and the more balanced distribution of money. Sen. Bernie Sanders impressive campaign run of 2016 garnered 10,000’s spectators at each event to hear his message. Much of what he spoke for had been his 30-year message. Grassroots movements are growing exponentially to confront the fascists rise. Now is the time for the individual workers to rise up, History shows it is when individual workers arise change happens.

I worked on the national data team for Sen. Bernie Sanders 2016. We processed all data incoming from events and rallies. We witnessed the numbers that his message resonated with. It was about US, the people uniting under a goal. There were 100,000’s of persons a massing. Sanders fully knows how rigged our economy is. “(Milton) Friedman’s ideology caused enormous damage to the American middle class and to working families here and around the world” (Age of InEquality, The Failed Prophet, page 45, Verso Books 2017, New York, USA.) “My colleagues in the Senate and I are picking up the pieces of the banking system brought to the edge of collapse by this theory of deregulation and by the insatiable greed of a small number of wealthy financiers ...” In Oklahoma, during our recent legislative session, the Republicans chose to cave in for the fossil fuel industry. In our cash strapped state, the people were wanting a 7% gross production tax on the oil and gas industry to fund our state budget. However, the Republican dominated legislature chose not to listen to the citizens. They voted to show preferential favor to the fossil fuel industry. As it turned out over half a million dollars were contributed to these legislators by this industry.¹⁷¹

¹⁷⁰ http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/17435.Malcolm_X

¹⁷¹

History follows that in the early 1900's the rampant legislative abuses were brought to light by the muckrakers. Modern times manifest through The Young Turks, Monthly Review, Democracy Now, Peoples World, The Nation, and others are the modern day muckrakers. The masses need to get behind the progressive leftist news for the truth. Mainstream media, the 6 conglomerates who own 90% of all.media is biased.¹⁷² Choosing to get the full and right truth one must leave corporate media outlets and embrace the leftist progressive news outlets.

In the past forty years, global inequality has risen alarmingly. "With respect to the forces responsible for inequality around the world, the one that stands out is the inability of working people and peasants to mount credible resistance."¹⁷³ "In recent years new protest movements have broken out around the world, all of them arguably rooted in burgeoning inequality or the structures that cause it." Here Yates echoes my thoughts and those of the communist party. It is the workers who must rise up. It's when the 99% awakens that their numbers are larger than the 1%. History again is at the moment when the masses revolt against the rigged tyrannical systems. During a late night legislature budget hearing, lots of Occupy and Our Revolution protesters showed up at the Oklahoma Capitol.¹⁷⁴ Even though the meeting of the legislators was late at night, the protesters made their presence known. At one point their presence caused the legislative chambers to be locked down. The already taxed citizens were also being faced with a sin tax on cigarettes to help fund the budget deficit. Two tobacco companies sued Oklahoma over this proposed tax affecting the burdened poor.¹⁷⁵ Movement 4 People's Democracy is a grassroots organization on all fronts strives to crush capitalism!

¹⁷²

<http://www.businessinsider.com/these-6-corporations-control-90-of-the-media-in-america-2012-6>

¹⁷³Measuring Global Inequality, Michael D. Yates, Monthly Review November 2016, Vol. 68 No. 6.

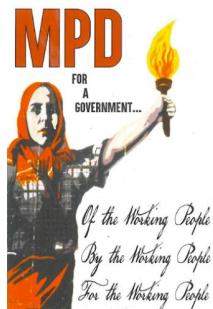
<https://monthlyreview.org/2016/11/01/measuring-global-inequality/>

¹⁷⁴

<http://kfor.com/2017/05/23/gas-and-oil-production-tax-bill-advances-out-of-committee-after-late-night-meeting/>

¹⁷⁵ <http://newsok.com/article/5552071>

Recent Union activity within the Industrial Workers of the World, shows that people are fighting back. From Starbucks to Burgerville, and Stardust singers on Broadway¹⁷⁶, IWW has been a tool for individuals to fight back. Even within IWW is the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee last fall successfully helped stage strikes behind prison walls regarding prisoner work reform. This gained international media coverage. From these examples, Occupy, Our Revolution, IWW, IWOC, have shown people are stepping up to resist. New muckrakers have sprung up to report the truth.



Crushing Capitalism!



movement4peoplesdemocracy.org

¹⁷⁶ <https://www.iww.org/history/campaigns>



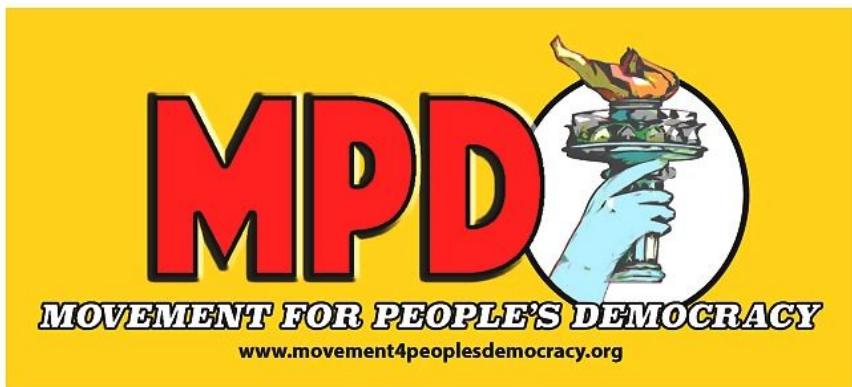
PEOPLE'S SCHOOL FOR MARXIST LENINIST STUDIES

<http://www.psmls.org/>

Every Other Thursday night
8:30pm EST / 7:30pm CST / 6:30pm MST / 5:30pm PST

Education

is one of the component parts of the struggle we are now waging. We can counter hypocrisy and lies with the complete and honest truth. The war has shown plainly enough what the "will of the majority" means, a phrase used as a cover by the bourgeoisie. It has shown that a handful of plutocrats drag whole nations to the slaughter in their own interests." -V.I. Lenin, Speech at the First All-Russia Congress On Education (1918)



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Labor Today is published by the Labor United for Class Struggle (LUCS), a nationwide caucus of union and non-represented workers. Our mission is to unite the working class to fight against the power of transnational capital. Currently only 11% of the U.S. workforce is organized into unions. Most of these workers are employed in the public sector, and are legally denied the right to strike. The most militant of these workers are the postal workers employed by the U.S. Postal Service. For this reason, they are under attack. However, they are not the only ones.

The attacks on the public sector and its workforce are part of a larger plan developed years ago by Milton Friedman and the University of Chicago School of Business. The plan is referred to as neoliberalism and its main feature is austerity. Reducing the number of federal, state, and municipal employees and cutting pensions and Social Security are the first part of the plan which President Ronald Reagan called "starving the beast". Under this plan, all government services are virtually eliminated with the exception of the military, and the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative Branches of government. This is also called Social Darwinism, or survival of the fittest.

Our mission with Labor Today and the LUCS caucus is to unite all of Labor, to give them a voice regardless of industry or type of work without regard to status: union or unrepresented. We provide assistance to the Walmart workers, the Fight for \$15 and a union and other efforts. We are transnational and we support the mission and policies of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU).

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